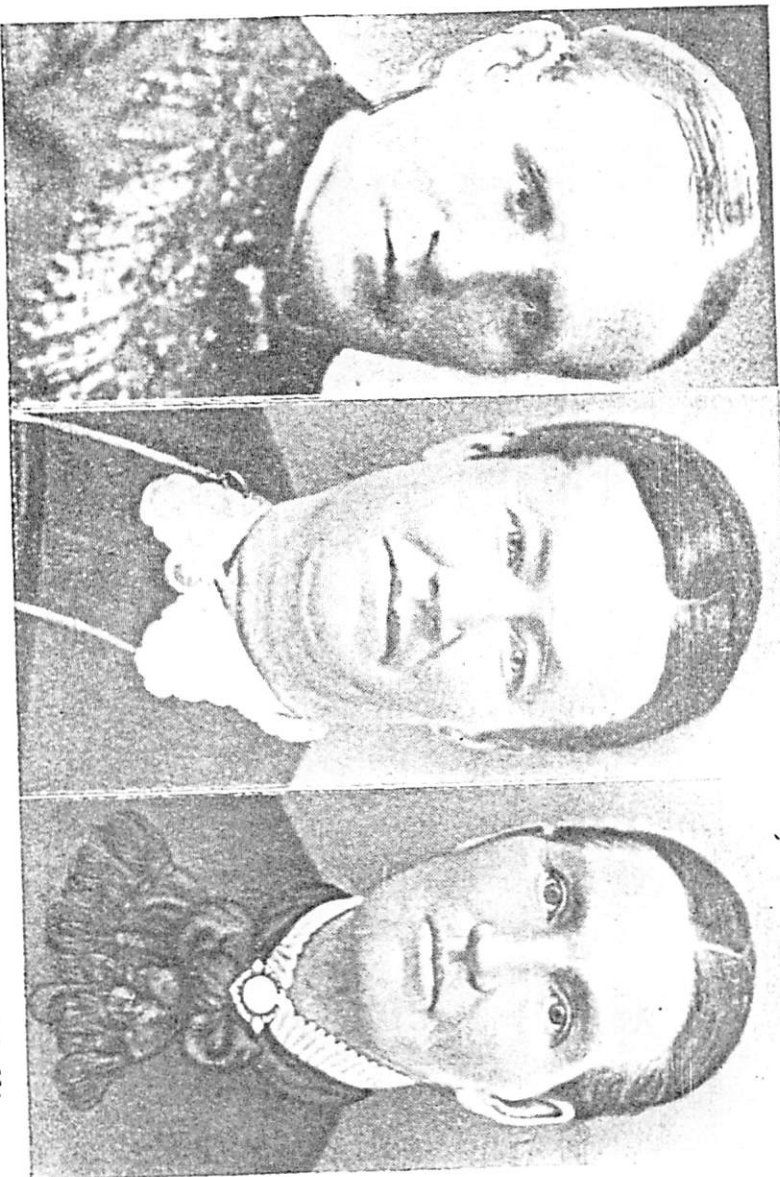


# *First Relief Society Presidency of Heber Ward*



Ann Murdock

Margaret Muir

Mary McMullin



Ann Murdock  
*1st Councilor*

Margaret Muir  
*Pres.*

Mary McMullin  
*2nd*

a cold, rainy December day marked the beginning of a long period of service to the people of Wasatch County.<sup>6</sup> He chose Thomas Giles and Henry S. Alexander as his counselors. Midway had by this time come into being as an amalgamation of the upper and lower Snake Creek settlements and Sidney Epperson was appointed as Presiding Elder there with David Van Wagonen and Ira Jacobs as counselors. In 1870 Elder Epperson was released and replaced by Henry S. Alexander.<sup>7</sup>

By the summer of 1887 the increase in population warranted the establishment of a stake and the reorganization of the communities into wards. Apostles John Taylor and Franklin D. Richards came to Heber and held a conference on the fourteenth and fifteenth of July.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup>Huber, *op. cit.*, p. 2.



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Protestant schools came to Wasatch County about 1883, and were welcomed because of the shortage of teachers in the valley. In fact, Latter-day Saint officials even helped the teachers become situated in the valley, realizing the cultural influence many of them would exert in the area.

The Congregationalists and Methodists were most influential in the Wasatch area. The first school was established by the New West Educational Commission, one of the societies of the Congregational Church. Known as the New West School, it was located on the corner of 1st North and 2nd East. Miss Angie L. Steele was the first teacher and she soon had more than 40 pupils. Some of the teachers, Miss Steele, Jennie Clafin, a Miss Shepherd, a Mrs. Rand, Miss Shute, Miss Crosbie, Miss Lester and Miss Stoner, to mention only a few, are still remembered affectionately and favorably by some of the older valley residents. When Miss Shute died she willed a considerable sum of money to the Wasatch County Library.

The Methodists opened a church and a school on the corner of Center Street and 1st West, a site which is now occupied by the Second-Fifth Ward Chapel of the LDS Church. Miss Ella Young was an early teacher in this Methodist School. The big issue of the day then was prohibition, and she took every opportunity to promote it.

Most of the teachers were single women from the East and were very well educated. They brought a cultural and intellectual influence into the frontier country that contributed greatly in refining the communities in which they lived.

Early educational efforts by the LDS Church were centered largely in the Wasatch Stake Academy which was established in Heber City.

In July, 1888, Wilford Woodruff, President of the Church, wrote a letter of instructions to President Abram Hatch of Wasatch Stake concerning the establishment of a stake board of education and the beginning of a stake academy.

With his counselors, President Hatch chose eight men, one from each of the wards of the stake, to serve on the board of education. They immediately formulated plans for the construction of a school building.

However, school work began before the building was completed. At a meeting of the board on August 2, 1889, Enoch Jorgensen was appointed principal of the Academy. He held his first classes in the back room of the Stake Tabernacle. Other Academy locations included the upper story of the Courthouse, the old Relief Society building on the northeast corner of the Tithing Office Block, the old "Social Hall," and upstairs in the rock building housing Carter's Store. The Carter's Store had also housed the Congregational School for a period.

When Mr. Jorgensen was appointed principal the board determined that the academic year would be divided into four terms beginning September 9, 1889. The terms would continue through June 27. Tuition was set at \$4 a term, paid in advance. Those who came from commu-

nities outside Heber were offered good board and lodging with private families for \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week.

Mr. Jorgensen taught the intermediate subjects, while a Miss Nelson was appointed instructor of the preparatory grade. This preparatory work did not begin until the second term.

Those enrolled in the intermediate grade had a wide selection of subjects from which to choose. Basic instruction, of course, was in the principles of the Gospel. Also offered were reading, grammar, composition, arithmetic, geography, penmanship, orthography or spelling, analytical and perspective drawing, bookkeeping, vocal music, United States history, algebra, physiology, and ladies' work, presumed to be homemaking courses.

The versatility of Mr. Jorgensen can be surmised from the class schedules, since he taught all the classes as well as being principal. Students however, were limited to a total of eight subjects, lest they should overwork, as undoubtedly their principal did.

The religious instruction was considered a most important part of the training. In his letter to President Hatch President Woodruff had indicated that "religious training is almost excluded from the district schools. The study of books that we value as Divine is forbidden."

Having been taught that the glory of God is intelligence, and that men cannot be saved "in ignorance," the Church leaders realized the importance of providing instruction in all areas of knowledge.

Thus in the Wasatch Academy, heavy emphasis was placed on theological subjects. Students were graded according to age, the Priesthood they held and previous training in religious subjects. School days were opened and closed with singing and prayer. There were daily recitations of scripture or other religious thoughts, and special Church services held each Wednesday. On Monday evenings after school, Mr. Jorgensen held a general review of the previous week's theology lessons. Also, once a week a Priesthood meeting was held to acquaint those who held the Priesthood with its organization and duties.

In addition, the strict moral standards of the Church were required of those attending. There was to be no profanity or obscenity, tobacco or strong drink, no visiting of taverns or games of chance.

By the end of the first term Mr. Jorgensen had enrolled 36 students and this number grew to 126 by February 18, 1890.

School work at the Academy continued successfully enough that the district schools provided elementary education only and left the secondary education to the Academy.

One of the first steps toward a public high school began in the school year of 1898-99 when J. Reuben Clark, Jr., of Grantsville, Tooele County, came to Wasatch County to teach high school subjects. The young teacher, who later became a high government official, ambassador to Mexico and then a member of the First Presidency of the LDS Church,



## WASATCH STAKE RELIEF SOCIETY

The <sup>2nd</sup> first Wasatch Stake Relief Society was organized Sept. 3, 1879, under the direction of Eliza R. Snow and Emmeline B. Wells of the Relief Society general presidency. This was not the first Relief Society organization in the valley, however, for Bishop Abram Hatch had established a Relief Society in the Heber Ward ten years earlier in June, 1869.

Margaret Muir was president of the ward Society, with Ann Murdoch and Mary McMullin as counselors. Forty members were enrolled in that first group.

When the stake organization was effected Emma Brown was chosen as president. She served for 19 years, with Sarah Alexander, Mary Daybell, Mary Bronson, Avis N. Bronson, Mary McMullin, Josephine Cluff Jones, Hannah Harbour, Sarah Cummings and Rhoda Ohlwiler as her counselors during that period.

The early pioneering days were difficult for the Relief Society sisters. In addition to establishing their own individual homes they had to go into the homes of others in caring for the poor, nursing the sick and making burial clothing for those who had passed away. To raise funds for their Society they stored wheat that had been gleaned from the fields, sold rags and sold their Sunday eggs.

The second Relief Society president was Annie R. Duke. Her counselors were Elizabeth H. Murdock, Lavisa Alexander and Sarah K. Duke.

In 1910 Johanna E. Jensen was called as stake Relief Society president. Her counselors were Margaret Murdock and Sophia Luke with Carlie Clegg Tidwell as secretary and Mima Broadbent, treasurer.

The next reorganization took place in 1917 when Sophia Luke was called as president. Clara Clyde, Mima Broadbent and Emma Fortie

AND THEY LOVED THE LORD THEIR GOD

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Relief Society presidents in Wasatch Stake



Margaret Muir



Emma Brown



Annie R. Duke



Johanna E. Jensen



Sophia Luke



Mima Broadbent



Nellie C. DeGraff



Violet Olpin



Ruth Mac Witt



Mina Giles



1st row: Elizabeth Carrol, Janette McMullen, Mary Moulton, Mary Ann Smith, Sarah J. R. Lindsay  
 (Children Maryan Duke Ryan, Elouise Crouse)

2nd row: Martha Clegg, Agnes Turner Celestia Buys, Christie Giles, Elizabeth Baird

3rd row: Maria Rasband, Jane Hatch Turner, Agne W. Lindsay, Elizabeth Wootton, Augusta Dohl-  
 man

4th row: Ida Watkins, Florence Balaska, Elizabeth Carlile, Eliza J. Rasband, Emma J. Fortie,  
 Amelia Montgomery, Eda Johnson, Maybell Moulton, Annie Simpson, Fannie J. Wall

5th row: Kate Turner, Mary Blackley, Josie Daybell, LaVon Birch, Annie Rasband, Virginia Chris-  
 tensen, Martha L. Agle, Chrissie L. Duke, Annie L. Clyde, Vera L. Rasband, Mary L. Fisher, Carlie  
 Clegg, Molly Davis